



This guide covers the 24 established trails in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. There are three sections, dividing the trails into easy, moderate, and difficult hikes.

You may print a more detailed trail description on each trail at our website www.nps.gov/whis or you may ask for a copy at the Visitor Center.

Safety

Proper equipment, good conditioning, and a healthy regard for weather and wilderness conditions will serve to enhance your visit and help avoid an unpleasant or dangerous experience. Stay on established roads and trails and notify someone of your travel plans. Wear sturdy, enclosed shoes or boots made for hiking.

Weather

Summers are typically hot and dry with temperatures often around 100 degrees. Consider hiking in the early morning to avoid the heat of the day. Bring sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and drinking water to avoid dehydration and hyperthermia.

Fees

All vehicles must display a pass on the dashboard. Whiskeytown annual passes are \$25, weekly passes \$10, and daily passes \$5. Lassen Volcanic Annual Passes, National Park Passes, Golden Age, Access, and Eagle Passports, and America the Beautiful Annual, Senior, and Access Passes may also be used.

No motorized vehicles

All motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails. Bicycles are allowed on most trails, with exceptions as noted.

Dogs

Dogs on leashes are permitted on trails. Dogs are not allowed on designated swim beaches.

Poison Oak

Poison oak is very common throughout the park and produces resinous oil that causes a severe rash in most people. Remember, "Leaves of three – let them be!" If you come into contact with poison oak, wash the exposed skin with clear water and wash the exposed clothing in a separate load of laundry.

Ticks

Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carries Lyme disease. Remove the tick yourself with tweezers or seek medical assistance. Consider keeping the tick for testing in case you become ill or develop a target-shaped rash around the bite.

Rattlesnakes

Stay a safe distance away. Most snake bites occur as a result of teasing or trying to handle snakes. Few people die from rattlesnake bites, but seek immediate medical attention if bitten.

Bears

If a bear approaches, try to scare it away by shouting, waving your arms, or throwing rocks. If a bear attacks, fall to the ground in a fetal position and play dead. Protect your neck and head with your hands.

Mountain Lions

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely, and never let them run ahead of you on the trail. If you cross paths with a mountain lion, don't run, which may stimulate its instinct to chase. Face the lion and stand upright, making eye contact, and back up slowly. Pick up small children and place them on your shoulders. Spread your arms, open your coat, and try to make yourself appear larger. If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw rocks at it. If attacked, fight back. Do not play dead.

Easy Hikes

Buck Hollow Trail

Length: 1 mile one way **Elevation:** 1050 to 1180 feet

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road. Follow Paige Bar for two miles and then turn left onto the unpaved section of the road which goes to Shasta and Igo. Follow it to Horse Camp, less than one mile.

At Horse Camp, follow the road to the left of the restrooms. The road will fork about 1/2 mile from Horse Camp; Paige Bar Road ends here and Mule Town Road begins. Take the right fork which is signed "Igo" (the left fork will take you to the elementary school in historic Shasta). Follow this section of Mule Town Road for about 1/2 mile and park your vehicle at the first trailhead on the left which says "Buck Hollow/Salt Creek Trail."

Walk a short distance to reach the connection between the two trails. Take the fork to your left to stay on Buck Hollow. The path will then wind gently up and down for one mile until it reaches the other side of Mule Town Road. Go back the way that you came.

Another option is to take Mule Town Road to the left and follow the road back to its fork. Take the fork to the left which says "Igo" and then back to your vehicle, the same way that you drove to the trailhead. It is about a mile and a half on the road to your vehicle.

Easy Hikes, continued

Camden Water Ditch Trail

Length: 1.1 mile loop **Elevation:** 1300 feet
Connections: Mill Creek and Clear Creek Vista Trails

Follow Highway 299 west to the Tower House Historic District parking lot. At the end of the parking lot by the bulletin board, follow the paved trail to the footbridge over Clear Creek and turn left after crossing. Cross the next bridge and turn right at the trailhead and follow a wide, sandy path along Willow Creek. The first part of the trail passes behind the historic Camden House and leads you to the picket-fenced gravesite of Levi Tower, owner of the once popular Tower Hotel, which was lost to fire in 1919. Tower used the surrounding fertile meadows to grow fruit and vegetables and raise livestock to feed the guests of his hotel. Turn to the left just past the gravesite and follow the old Camden Water Ditch behind the barn and along an old road to the site of the El Dorado Mine, where a stamp mill for crushing ore still stands along with a collection of old mining equipment. Follow the road back to the parking lot, past the site of the Camden saw mill and Tenant Farm House built in 1913.

Crystal Creek Falls and Picnic Area Trail

Length: ¼ mile one way **Elevation:** Flat

From Highway 299 west, follow Crystal Creek road for 2 miles until you see the quarried area on your left. In this area, huge piles of rock were removed from the tunnel between Lewiston Dam and Carr Powerhouse and deposited in this area. Turn left onto the dirt road down the center of the piles; park your vehicle at the locked silver gate located about 0.2 miles from the paved road. On foot, follow the dirt road behind the gate for about 0.25 miles until you reach a picnic and barbecue area. The falls are immediately ahead of you. To reach the top of the falls, walk behind the cement building and follow the trail upwards.

Crystal Creek Water Ditch Trail **Hiking only. No bicycles or pack animals.*

Length: 1 mile one way **Elevation:** 1400 to 1430 feet

From Highway 299 west, follow Crystal Creek Road ¼ mile past the bridge. Look for the trailhead in a dirt pullout on the left side of the road. At the bottom of the section with the railing, look to your left for a wooden shed that encloses an interesting mechanism designed to clear debris before spilling water into an older irrigation system that dates back to the gold rush. Take the path back to your right as you walk along the water ditch for the remainder of the trail. Much of this cool, shady trail is easy walking, although about midway there is a 300-foot long narrow boardwalk and flume built along a steep embankment which may be challenging to those who have a fear of heights. The boardwalk rests about 25 feet above the creek. Operating entirely by gravity, the ditch system still provides water to the Tower House Historic District. The trail ends at the intake dam which channels part of the creek's flow into this historic waterway.

Oak Bottom Water Ditch Trail

Length: 2.3 miles one way **Elevation:** 1220 to 1240 feet

Note: This hike can be combined with the Clear Creek Vista Trail by connecting with it along Carr Powerhouse Road.

As you enter Oak Bottom Campground from Highway 299, look for the trailhead on your right, at the pullout with the large bulletin board, just before the campground store. Take the trail to the left of the bulletin board, not the old access road on the right, which is blocked by boulders. Follow the trail down to the shoreline, and then to your right. The path follows the shoreline along the upper channel of Whiskeytown Lake and offers various fishing or swimming spots and relief from the summer sun. Stay to the left as the path hooks up again with the access road. After this junction, the trail goes along a short section of highway. About 1.5 miles from the beginning, the path leaves the lake for a short length to cross over a gated access road; go down the road and to the right to regain the trail. Parts of the trail were once sections of an elaborate system of flumes and ditches which delivered water to mining operations dating back to the gold rush era. The trail ends on old Highway 299 at the Carr Powerhouse area.

Shasta Divide Nature Trail at the Visitor Center **Hiking only. No bicycles or pack animals.*

Length: 0.4 mile loop **Elevation:** 1212 to 1400 feet

The trailhead is easily found at the far end of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center parking lot. Numbered posts identify plant species and coincide with a trail guide that can be obtained from the visitor center. The very shady and cool path takes you down to the shoreline of Whiskeytown Lake, where benches provide a quiet spot to enjoy the view. It is also a nice place to go swimming.

Moderate Hikes

Boulder Creek Falls Trail (South Shore Drive Access)

Length: 2.75 miles one way **Elevation:** 1300 to 2250 feet

From Highway 299 west, take Carr Powerhouse Road past the powerhouse itself and turn left on South Shore Drive, a well-maintained dirt road. The trailhead is located 2 ½ miles further on the right side of a crossroads. Walk around the gate at the trailhead and follow an old dirt road that climbs to a fork; turn left. Much of the trail is a steady uphill walk with the first mile exposed to the sun. After a few steep climbs, stands of ponderosa pines and douglas fir provide shade. About one mile from the trailhead, turn left at a second fork in the road and you will come to the first of four crossings of Boulder Creek. On the last crossing, if you follow the creek to the left about 200 feet, you will be rewarded with a refreshing waterfall, a perfect place for a dip. The trail ends about a mile beyond this point at Mill Creek Road.

Boulder Creek Falls Trail (Mill Creek Road Access)

Length: 1 mile one way **Elevation:** 2170 to 2250 feet

From Highway 299 west, take Carr Powerhouse Road to Mill Creek Road, located on the right ½ mile from the highway. Mill Creek Road is a dirt road that is closed after the first winter storms and reopened in late spring. You will follow Mill Creek Road steadily uphill for a little over 2 miles until you reach the trailhead. At the road crossing just past the big tank, stay to the right. At the end of the road, you will see a wide spot for parking and two paths. The upper path on the left with the boulder in the middle of it is the trailhead. After a short initial climb, the trail evens out and is a fairly easy walk to the falls, which you will find on your right. This access to Boulder Creek Falls is recommended during the summer months because it is well shaded and much shorter than the trail to the falls from South Shore Drive.

Brandy Creek Falls Trail

Length: 1.5 miles one way **Elevation:** 2000 to 2500 feet

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Shasta Bally Road. Follow this road for 3.4 miles; stay to the left at the junction to Sheep Camp. At the end of the road, park your vehicle and walk uphill past the boulders in the road to find the trailhead on the left. The trail is a steady uphill walk crossing several small streams. The lower falls is located just past the second crossing. The upper falls is still .25 miles ahead. You will arrive at a bridge made of wooden planks cabled in place. After crossing this bridge, go several hundred yards upstream and cross another plank bridge over the creek. You will be able to see the upper falls from here. Follow the pathway to stairs cut into the rock with handrails. The trail ends in the streambed at the base of the upper falls.

Brandy Creek Trail (lower section)

Length: 1 mile one way **Elevation:** 1250 to 1650 feet

The trailhead is located at the junction of Kennedy Memorial Drive and Shasta Bally Road. Just before the bridge on the left side is a dirt parking lot with a bulletin board. A mixed forest of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, canyon live oak, incense cedar and alders will provide plenty of shade along this trail. You will find places to walk down to water and take a dip in swimming holes. The trail parallels the creek, gently climbing until you reach an area which is being revegetated after the removal of a small dam. At this point, you can return the same way that you came or you can continue and explore the middle section of the Brandy Creek Trail.

Clear Creek Vista Trail

Length: 1.8 miles one way **Elevation:** 1250 to 1450 feet

Follow the access road from Highway 299 to Carr Powerhouse for 3/10 of a mile. The trailhead is found after the Clear Creek Bridge on the right side of the road. The trail begins with a fairly steep climb along shady switchbacks for nearly one mile, when you come to an intersection of old roads. Take the one that goes straight, not the first one that goes uphill on your left or the one that goes steeply downhill on your right. Soon you will come to an open area of hillside that offers a lovely bird's eye view of the Tower House Historic District and Clear Creek. Continuing across a set of old mining car tracks, the trail will plunge downhill to Mill Creek where old rock stairs will lead you to a wet creek crossing. Turn right on the dirt road after you cross the creek and you will arrive at the end of the trail at the stamp mill in the Tower House Historic District. Explore this area by following the Camden Water Ditch Trail directions.

Davis Gulch Trail **Hiking only. No bicycles or pack animals.*

Length: 3.3 miles one way **Elevation:** 1240 to 1414 feet

The trailhead is located on Kennedy Memorial Drive, about a half mile after crossing the Whiskeytown Dam. The trail meanders in and out of small canyons and past numerous interpretive plaques describing plant life along the way. This is a relatively cool hike in the summer when the late afternoon or early evening shade sets in. About two miles into the hike, the trail descends to the lakeshore and winds along scenic coves where you may want to go swimming or fishing. The trail follows the lakeshore for about a half mile, then gently climbs up a ridge which will descend to the end of the trail at Brandy Creek Beach, Parking Lot B, near the restroom.

Moderate Hikes, continued

Guardian Rock Trail

Length: 1 mile one way to NEED Camp (Whiskeytown Environmental School)

Elevation: 900 to 1100 feet

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road. Follow Paige Bar for two miles and then turn left onto the unpaved section of the road which goes to Shasta and Igo. Follow it to Horse Camp, less than one mile, where the trailhead is located behind primitive campsite # 1. The trail is mostly downhill, with rewarding views of Kanaka Peak and Clear Creek. There are several places where you can scamper down to large swimming holes. The trail ends near the bridge at the Whiskeytown Environmental School (public access to the school is not permitted). You can follow the road over the bridge, back to the intersection of the dirt road and return to your vehicle at Horse Camp, making a loop of about two miles.

James K. Carr Trail to Whiskeytown Falls

Length: 3.4 miles round trip **Elevation:** 2200 to 2900 feet

Starting at the Visitor Center, drive west 8 miles along Highway 299 to Crystal Creek Road. Turn left onto Crystal Creek Road and drive for 3.5 miles until you reach the gravel parking lot on the left. Take Mill Creek Trail downhill along a former logging road. Cross over the west fork of Crystal Creek and continue until you reach the sign for the James K. Carr Trailhead on the right. The trail ascends steadily uphill through a ravine. Stay on the main trail and avoid the old logging spurs to the right and left. The trail will level out and you will arrive at a picnic area; horses and bicycles should be left here. The trail parallels the creek for .25 mile until it reaches the base of the falls. Look to the left for the stone stairs leading up the cliff. Use the metal handrails for safety as you climb to the two vista points.

Logging Camp Trail

Length: 1 ¼ miles one way from Peltier Bridge Campground to Kanaka Peak Loop Trail

Elevation: 960 to 1375 feet **Difficulty level:** Moderate

Note: Horsetail Canyon and Lady Bug Lane trails are closed to the public, and are used only by the Whiskeytown Environmental School. Please stay off these trails so that the children can observe wildlife.

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road, continuing one mile until you reach the dirt Peltier Valley Road to the right of the Mt. Shasta Mine Loop Trail parking lot. Equestrians should park here. Others in smaller vehicles may drive to Peltier Bridge primitive campground and park near the restrooms. Walk down to the left to campsites #6 and #7, to a trail that climbs the hill. At the top, you will see the Hydraulic Mine trail sign; pass this and continue to the right, where a metal gate is located. Follow the road downhill and you will find the Logging Camp Trail sign, located to the right across a small stream crossing.

As you climb the mile-long trail, try to envision it as it once was, as a road big enough to accommodate loaded logging trucks. An extensive restoration was completed in 1999, using heavy equipment to recontour the hillsides. The area was re-vegetated with native grasses and shrubs. The trail ends at Kanaka Peak Loop Trail.

Mill Creek Trail (short route)

Length: 1 ½ miles one way **Elevation:** 1250 to 1600 feet **Difficulty level:** Moderate to difficult

Note: Creek crossings are not advised during high water.

Follow Highway 299 west to the Tower House Historic District parking lot. At the end of the parking lot by the bulletin board, follow the paved trail to the footbridge over Clear Creek and turn left after crossing. Cross the next bridge and turn left onto the access road. Follow the access road past the Tenant Farmhouse and barn and then past the El Dorado Mine site where the trailhead marker is located. Before reaching the creek, you will pass through an open forest with little underbrush. The first of 19 creek crossings is just ahead of you on this very wet, cool, and lush trail. Rocks provide footage at most of the crossings, but you may want to wear shoes with antislip soles for those slippery spots. As the trail becomes rocky, steep and narrow at about 1 ½ miles, you may want to turn around and come back in the opposite direction.

Mount Shasta Mine Loop Trail

Length: 3.1 mile loop **Elevation:** 1080 to 1500 feet **Difficulty level:** Moderate to difficult

Note: Much of this trail is exposed to the sun; you may want to choose a cooler hike during the summer months.

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road. Follow Paige Bar Road about one mile. On the left-hand side, there is a large parking area. The trail begins near the restroom. Hiking in a counter clockwise direction, the trail takes you behind Whiskeytown Cemetery then past the Mt. Shasta Mine. Look for the fenced mine shaft to the left of the trail where a very large foothill pine tree has fallen across the path. An interpretive sign is located in front of the fencing. The trail then meanders along Orofino Creek, offering small pools and waterfalls during winter and spring. The trail will leave the creek and begin to climb steadily uphill with vistas of the surrounding peaks and the bald, rolling hills in the Igo area. Eventually you will end up on an access road; go left on the downhill side. Walk along this road for the remainder of your journey, enjoying views of Whiskeytown Lake.

Moderate Hikes, continued

Mule Mountain Pass Trail

Length: 4.25 miles if traveled from Salt Gulch Trail to Swasey Drive

Elevation: 1000 feet on BLM land to 1650 feet on NPS land

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road. Follow Paige Bar for two miles and then turn left onto the unpaved section of the road which goes to Shasta and Igo. Follow it to Horse Camp, less than one mile. At Horse Camp, follow the road to the left of the restrooms. The road will fork about 1/2 mile from Horse Camp; Paige Bar Road ends here and Mule Town Road begins. Take the right fork which is signed "Igo" (the left fork will take you to the elementary school in historic Shasta). Follow this section of Mule Town Road for about 1/2 mile and go past the first trailhead on the left which says "Buck Hollow/Salt Creek Trail. Stop and park your vehicle at the second trailhead, which says only "Salt Creek Trail."

After about one mile along the trail, there is a fork which you should take to the right to connect to Mule Mountain Pass. The narrow path, which soon leaves the boundaries of Whiskeytown climbs steeply uphill to a pass on Mule Mountain. From there it is downhill through Bureau of Land Management property. Enjoy views of Redding, Mount Lassen, and greater Shasta County. Stone walls and some mining prospects from the Gold Rush era are still visible from the trail, which ends at Swasey Drive near the bow hunter's club.

Peltier Trail

Length: 1.75 miles one way; 3.75 miles if traveled as a loop with Kanaka Peak Trail and Peltier Valley Road

Elevation: 1550 to 2300 feet for the loop

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road, then turn right onto Peltier Valley Road. The beginning of the Peltier Trail is located approximately 2.7 miles from Peltier Bridge Campground. The road is open from late spring to late fall depending on the weather. It is unpaved and crosses a shallow, seasonal stream. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. When the road is closed, park at the campground and hike up the road to the Peltier Trailhead.

The trail follows an old logging road, ascending through a mixed forest of oak, maple, and pine. As the trail ascends, it winds around to a southern exposure where it is rocky and exposed. Pass the Salt Gulch Trail on the right. Peltier Trail now crosses a small seasonal creek and the trail forks several hundred feet past a grassy area. Take the left fork down the hill (the right fork ends abruptly). The trail is shaded, somewhat steep, and requires careful footing. Cross Paige Boulder Creek and continue uphill through a shady forest. At the top of the ridge, it descends quickly and ends at the Kanaka Peak Loop Trail.

Turn left at the Kanaka Peak Loop Trail and cross Paige Boulder Creek again. Across the creek is Peltier Valley Road. Turn left to return to your car at the Peltier Trailhead.

Rich Gulch Trail

Length: 1.8 miles one way; 3.3 miles if traveled as a loop starting and ending at Brandy Creek Falls Trail

Elevation: 1950 to 2450 feet

Note: This trail is accessed via the Brandy Creek Falls Trail.

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Shasta Bally Road. Drive up Shasta Bally about 3.5 miles; do not take the turnoff for Sheep Camp. Look to the left for the Brandy Creek Falls Trail sign and park in this area. Follow the falls trail for about .75 miles until you connect with the Rich Gulch Trail.

The trail is an old logging road that goes uphill over the ridge and falls back into the Brandy Creek drainage. It is mostly shaded in second growth forest and provides some vistas of Shasta Bally mountain along the way. It will cross over Rich Gulch Creek and it will eventually end at the dirt road. Turn left to walk up the road and return to the parking area at the Brandy Creek Falls trailhead.

Salt Creek Loop Trail

Length: 1.9 mile loop **Elevation:** 1050 to 1350 feet

Note: This trail connects to the Buck Hollow Trail and the Mule Mountain Pass section of the Shasta Trinity Trail. Creek crossings are not advised during high water.

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road. Follow Paige Bar for two miles and then turn left onto the unpaved section of the road which goes to Shasta and Igo. Follow it to Horse Camp, less than one mile. At Horse Camp, follow the road to the left of the restrooms. The road will fork about 1/2 mile from Horse Camp; Paige Bar Road ends here and Mule Town Road begins. Take the right fork which is signed "Igo" (the left fork will take you to the elementary school in historic Shasta). Follow this section of Mule Town Road for about 1/2 mile and go past the first trailhead on the left which says "Buck Hollow/Salt Creek Trail;" this is where you will be ending your hike. Stop and park your vehicle at the second trailhead, which says only "Salt Creek Trail."

After about one mile along the trail, there is a fork which you should take to the left if you wish to continue on the Salt Creek Loop Trail. Follow the right fork if you wish to connect to the Mule Mountain Pass section of the Shasta Trinity Trail. This section of the Shasta Trinity Trail will take you to Swasey Drive near the bow hunter's club after about two and a quarter miles of travel.

If you choose to continue on the Salt Creek Loop Trail to the left of the fork, you will soon come upon a short, steep ascent. You will then travel downhill to arrive at the first of six crossings of Salt Creek. During the winter or other periods of heavy rainfall, these creek crossings can be quite dangerous. This section of the trail is much safer during the late spring, summer, and fall, when the creek is low enough to rock-hop or wade across. It is not recommended during the winter or early spring.

The Salt Creek trail ends at its connection to Buck Hollow trail, where you will come to another fork. Follow the trail to the left and you will shortly come out on Mule Town Road at the trailhead marked “Buck Hollow/Salt Creek,” which you passed earlier in your vehicle. Take Mule Town Road to the left to regain your vehicle parked at the Salt Creek trailhead.

Salt Gulch Trail

Length: 1.6 miles one way; 5.4 miles if traveled as a loop from Peltier Trail to Shasta Bally Road and ending on Peltier Valley Road at the Peltier Trailhead **Elevation:** 1950 to 2740 feet
Note: This trail is accessed via the Peltier Trail.

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road, then turn right onto Peltier Valley Road. The beginning of the Peltier Trail is located approximately 2.7 miles from Peltier Bridge Campground. The road is open from late spring to late fall depending on the weather. It is unpaved and crosses a shallow, seasonal stream. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. When the road is closed, park at the campground and hike up the road to the Peltier Trailhead.

After about a half mile on the Peltier Trail, you will reach the intersection with the Salt Gulch Trail, which will be to the right. There are excellent views here across the valley to Mount Lassen. The trail ascends to a summit with distant views of Whiskeytown Lake and the Trinity Alps, and then drops down into Rich Gulch. Mountain bikers enjoy the steep descents on this western face of the trail, but care must be taken in several severely eroded sections. The trail ends on the road that goes to the Brandy Creek Falls Trailhead.

Difficult Hikes

Mill Creek Trail (long route)

Length: 6.5 miles one way **Elevation:** 1250 to 1600 feet

From Highway 299 west, follow Crystal Creek Road 3.6 miles to the trailhead at a wide pullout on the left side of the road. The trail drops down and crosses Crystal Creek, which it parallels for 1.5 miles. The trail leaves the creek and winds uphill to its connection with an old logging road. Follow this road for about 2.3 miles until you regain the single track trail near Mill Creek. For the next .5 mile, the going is fairly narrow and rocky, but the last 1.5 mile section is a bit wider and more open. There are 19 creek crossings on this very wet, cool, and lush section of the trail. Rocks provide footage at most of the crossings, but you may want to wear shoes with antislip soles for those slippery spots. The trail ends at the El Dorado Mine in the Tower House Historic District. Explore this area by following the Camden Water Ditch Trail directions. Follow the road in front of the stamp mill past the Tenant Farmhouse and over the Willow and Clear Creek bridges to reach the parking lot on Highway 299.

Kanaka Peak Loop Trail

Length: 8 mile loop if you start at the campground; 6 mile loop if you start at the trailhead
Elevation: 1170 to 2600 feet
Difficulty level: Very difficult; this is one of the most strenuous and challenging trails in Whiskeytown. The steep terrain on both sides of the summit is very demanding and requires sturdy boots.

Take Kennedy Memorial Drive to Paige Bar Road and turn right on Peltier Valley Road. Follow the road to Peltier Bridge Primitive Campground. From here, park and walk the remaining mile to the trailhead, or, if you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle, you can drive the last mile. After crossing a small creek, the trailhead is located about 75 yards on the left side of the road.

Starting at the trailhead sign, immediately cross Paige Boulder Creek. Just 100 feet from the creek, the trail forks; take the left fork, which will parallel the creek for the next couple of miles. Cross the creek again at .25 miles. At .8 miles, the trail forks again; take the left fork. Pass Logging Camp Trail at 1 mile at then pass Ridge Trail a short distance further. The trail descends gradually down to Paige Boulder Creek. Cross the creek 1.6 miles from the trailhead. Other trails that you will pass are Paige Boulder Creek Trail and Martha’s Ditch Trail.

The trail continues up Kanaka Peak with two very steep ascents, especially near the summit. The panoramic view at the top is spectacular with scenes of Lassen Peak, the city of Redding, the small towns of Igo and Ono, the Trinity Alps, Mount Shasta, and of course, Whiskeytown Lake. From the summit, the trail continues north along a ridge, dips into a saddle, then climbs back up. In this area, the trail parallels the western border of the park. When the trail forks near the Whiskeytown sign, take the right fork.

At 1.3 miles from the peak, pass the junction of the Kanaka Cutoff Trail. Approximately .25 mile later, the trail crosses a small creek. The trail descends gradually, passing the Peltier Trial at about 2 miles from the summit. Finally, at 3 miles from the peak, the trail returns to the starting point after crossing Paige Boulder Creek one last time.